



# Taradale U3A Newsletter

November 2022

## **PRESIDENT KEITH'S PONDERINGS:**

Greetings all,

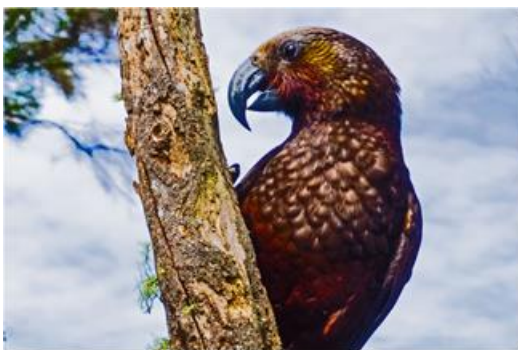
The year 2022 is rapidly slipping away. Every year is significant but one that embraces our emergence from *Covid* restrictions and the horrors of the Ukrainian invasion, along with growing anxiety here and around the world to all that goes under the name of climate change is certainly a year of universal significance. For many of us the year will also be one of personal significance – the death of a loved one, family events that have brought pleasure, perhaps health issues that define what we can or cannot do. Most of us will have learned that, whatever the year has brought us, there are always aspects of it for which we can be grateful.



Thanks to all who planned for and enabled the Cape Kidnappers Conservation trip. There are some good people around doing some very good things and it was great to catch some of their enthusiasm and care for our wildlife and natural environment. The evident joy of the Kaka - see the photos below-at the care they are receiving felt like a big smile in a sometimes scowling and threatening world. Thanks to Richard Gregory and the Community Affairs group for the idea and to Geoff Tilyard for the detailed organisation (see his brief report below).

Please note our **Christmas Taradale Town Hall meeting, 10.00 am on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>**. The Hawke's Bay Community Choir will entertain us and there'll be good opportunity to feel the strength and shared pleasure that is part of U3A. U3A is an amazing framework for meeting, exploring, sharing wisdom, and celebrating retirement years. Don't hesitate to invite friends or newcomers to our area who want to meet with those who belong to the same age stage and value talking, being together, sharing common interests.

**Keith Rowe, President.**



### **CAPE SANCTUARY TRIP**

We ran two trips to Cape Sanctuary, the first on the 8th November with 40 U3A members, the second on 16<sup>th</sup> November with 20. We were extremely lucky on both days, getting nice fine weather. We enjoyed an informative and interesting four-hour tour exploring the different flora and fauna - Tuatara, Takahe, Kaka, Weta etc. Beautiful views were had from the tops of the hills straddling both sides of the Sanctuary. Some enjoyed a picnic lunch afterwards. They are now running trips for the general public for any interested.

Geoff Tilyard

## December Meeting

**Wednesday 7 December, Taradale Town Hall, 10am.**

**The hall will be open at 9.30am for a 10am start.**

**Come and hear the beautiful voices of the**

**Hawkes Bay Community Choir**

### UPDATE ON THE COMMITTEE

The committee is buzzing along well. Yvonne Huckson has taken over the task of minutes secretary. We will be seeking a replacement treasurer as Christine Smith has had to resign from the role because of added family responsibilities supporting a family member sadly affected by long covid. We will miss her wisdom and efficiency. Jeanette Elgie will be acting treasurer until our annual meeting.

1. We remind members that Taradale U3A members can attend courses belonging to the Hastings and Havelock North clubs. You can learn of these through their web sites. Membership in any of the Hawkes Bay clubs includes access to the groups in each of the three clubs. We have found the newly instituted occasional informal meeting between presidents and other officers of the three Hawkes Bay U3A's to be helpful.
2. A reminder that our groups all operate under the U3A umbrella so that each member of a group should be a financial member of Taradale U3A.
3. We've clarified **the process for the collection of subs at the beginning of each year.** An invoice type letter will be sent out with the January newsletter. Those who do not pay within a short period will be approached through the convenor of groups they belong to. A reminder note will be sent to those who have not been able to pay by March. Those who have not paid by 30 June will be deleted from membership including membership of groups they may attend. For those who may have difficulty paying or processing a payment using internet banking, consult your group convenor.
4. We agreed to publicise courses run by SeniorNet who organise courses on computer and mobile phone skills for folk of our age and stage. We share with them a commitment to retired and elderly people having sufficient computer skills to function well in our technological society.
5. Dates for 2023: **Town Hall Meetings for 2023:** 1 February **AGM**, 3 May, 6 September, 6 December.
6. Some members have received scam phone calls claiming to be connected with U3A. How do we recognise a scam call?

**Signs of a scam call:** calls that are unexpected; contact from businesses you don't know; unprompted calls from businesses you deal with; requesting to access your phone or computer remotely; asking you to download software; wanting you to lie or withhold information; pressuring you to act fast; asking you to move money out of your account.

**What to do next:** Hang up and end the call; call the company back on an official phone number (don't request a call back); never share your on-line banking passwords; don't give out personal information; be careful sharing verification codes unless you're sure.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY!**

Next year Taradale U3A will be looking for a new Treasurer and a new Secretary.

Job descriptions for the two roles include:

Treasurer - Basic requirements are good bookkeeping and being able to do Online Banking. Committee Meetings are 4 per year, dates adaptable to suit the Committee Members.

Secretary - Take minutes at the Committee Meetings. Organise and send these Minutes to the Committee by Email. Handle any General Correspondence.

If you feel you could fill one of these important roles or would like to nominate a willing candidate, please contact Keith Rowe or a current Committee Member.

## ***From our Groups:***

### **CONTENTIOUS ISSUES GROUP**

Are you familiar with the 'Doctrine of Discovery' issued by Pope Alexander VI in 1493? In a time when Papal power was politically significant it gave to European explorers the right to lay claim to land they 'discovered' that was not populated by Christians. Such land was regarded as being 'vacant' and able to be claimed as the possession of the 'discovering' nation. Of course, the 'discovered' land had never been lost – it was inhabited by people who loved it, lived in it and in whose fields grew their food. Their one 'crime' was that they lived on land wanted by a more powerful invader.

This pernicious doctrine enabled British settlers to Australia to describe that continent as 'Terra Nullius', uninhabited, even though the indigenous people had lived there for thousands of years. The idea contained in this 1493 Papal Bull helped shape the attitudes of those who built the great European Empires, including the British Empire, in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries: the dreadful notion that those who do not agree with me and my cultural and religious views do not really exist and have no right to have what I and my government want! Though first applied in South America views like this have caused havoc in most parts of the world. You may know that on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1840 William Hobson, in the name of Queen Victoria, proclaimed that Queen Victoria, 'on the grounds of discovery', asserted 'her sovereign rights over the Southern Islands of New Zealand, commonly called the 'Middle Island', and 'Stewarts's Island'; and the Island, commonly called 'The Northern Island', having been ceded in sovereignty (by a treaty) to Her Majesty.

There is so much we have inherited from the past that needs to be unravelled and put right. The group discussing the Doctrine of Discovery were grateful for the member who had chosen the topic and were left with plenty of questions, loose ends and personal reflections.

**Contact person: Keith Rowe**

## **DIPPING INTO HISTORY – reflecting on the year that was**

World War 1 – what causes wars?  
Lord Collingwood - the forgotten hero  
William Morris  
the Plantagenets  
Rob Hall - mountaineer and guide  
The NZ Musket Wars.

These are some of the subjects we covered in our meetings this year. We take turns in presenting a subject of our own choice, (no more than yearly), followed by discussion and a friendly general quiz.

For our midyear outing we visited the wonderful Lemmon Trust Museum with its collection of vehicles and memorabilia. If you would like to come and experience a meeting, be in touch. We have space for a few new members.

We meet 2pm, second Monday of the month at the Missionview Retirement Village Community Hall, Avondale Road, Napier.

**Wynn Barnett, Convenor (844 23 29)**

### **U3A MAHJONG GROUP**

We have a membership of just under thirty members. We are meeting at the Oamaru Bowling Club at the present time but will be moving to a new venue when the Taradale Bridge Club's new building is completed early next year. Several of the members we lost over the past couple of years have indicated that they will be returning at that time, so we are quite hopeful of increasing our membership again.

We have a very relaxed club morning with a "Challenge Hand" each week and an extra prize for those who get a "bouquet". (Those with knowledge of mahjong terminology will understand.) We will have our last session for 2022 on 13<sup>th</sup> December and will recommence on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Our last day for 2022 will mostly be involved in a sumptuous morning tea created by our very own Pat Flett. We are always thrilled to welcome new members into our group. Vera Glover – our "Guru" has a separate table where she assists/teaches those who are new to the game, so don't be shy if you have not played before.

The Taradale Bridge Club have indicated that they would welcome any other groups looking for a meeting venue. If interested, please contact Ash on 0272492001.

**Joy Lawrence**

### **CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP**

The Classical Music Group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month on Napier Hill. We listen to about two hours of music with an afternoon tea interval. The repertoire is wide from Renaissance to the twentieth century.

**The contact person is Lester Calder (027 234 7050).**

## MYTHOLOGY GROUP 2022

We are a small group of seven and we meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the home of Catherine Downes in King Street, Taradale. This year we have studied a vast number of mythologies including not only Greek and Roman but also those of Japan, Norway, Denmark, Minoan, Mycenae and Maori. We have also looked at important people in the ancient world such as Herodotus the first Greek historian, Gaius Catallus the Roman poet, Cicero the Roman statesman, the sculpture of Pheidias and the poets Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. All new members would be most welcome.

**Pam Medcalf, Convenor (835 82 31) [medcalf6@xtra.co.nz](mailto:medcalf6@xtra.co.nz)**

## LUNCH GROUP 3

We have had a very successful year. In February we went to the *Puketapu Pub*; in March to *Off The Track*; in April to *Thai Lotus*; in May to *Bangkok House*; in June to *The Duke of Gloucester*; in July to *The Station*; in August to *Spice Hut*; in September to *Jarks*, in October to *Thai Chef* and, in November, to the *EIT*. Our numbers have usually been between twelve to fifteen and we meet on the first Friday of each month. All new members would be most welcome.

**Pam Medcalf, Convenor (835 82 31) [medcalf6@extra.co.nz](mailto:medcalf6@extra.co.nz)**

## SCRABBLE GROUP (U3A version of Scrabble)

Thursday 1.30-3.30 pm in Taradale. If you haven't played before, now is the time to join a friendly, helpful group. We do use dictionaries and handy sheets with lists of 1-4 letter words. We were all beginners at one time and are at various non-competitive levels. To pay for the hall hire the cost is \$3 for two games, i.e. \$1.50 a game. It will depend on the cost of the venue. *Covid* and natural attrition in our age group have reduced our numbers and we are looking for a cheaper venue. If you are thinking of joining us now or in January after our break, please could you let me know.

**Marion Sturm, Convenor (8448872)**

## FRENCH (Advanced Beginners)

We are still enjoying our group which has been boosted by John, Elly and Margaret. Elly and Margaret have both practised their French skills in France and Switzerland this winter. I will be starting a new group up in 2023 for **Beginners and Refreshers**. Thinking of meeting at my place in Taradale on Monday or Tuesday pm or Thursday am, depending what suits most. If you are thinking of joining, please give me a call.

**Marion Sturm, Convenor (8448872)**

**“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count,  
it’s the life in your years.”  
*Abraham Lincoln***

## ***A little history...***

### **THE EARLY DAYS OF U3A TARADALE**

One of the obituaries in the last newsletter reminded me of how little of the early days of *U3A Taradale* seems to be known by many present-day members.

*U3A Hawke's Bay* was incorporated under the *Incorporated Societies Act 1908* on 25 August 1993. It consisted of two branches - Hastings and Taradale. The first meeting was of the *Antiques* group in October that year.

I joined *U3A Hawke's Bay* in 1996 and many groups were running, including *Antiques*, which has run continuously since then. In 1997 Hastings members of the *U3A Hawke's Bay* committee raised the question of incorporating separately. It was agreed in 1998 and, in 1999, *Hastings U3A Incorporation* was approved. Taradale was left as *U3A Hawke's Bay* and as a branch and so amendments to the Constitution were drafted and approved by the Taradale membership in 2000. The late Peter Newby, as Secretary, was of great assistance to me in the drafting of the Constitution and gaining its approval.

Jean Merrick's obituary refers to the start of the *Community Affairs* group. When my late wife, Connie, and I joined *U3A Hawke's Bay*, we attended an *International Affairs* group led by a gentleman from *Havelock North U3A*. He later decided to pursue other avenues and the group closed. That led to a discussion between Merle Killington, Jean Merrick, my wife and myself about a group to fill the gap and, thus, *Community Affairs* began. Merle was already coordinating two groups and was unwilling to take on anymore, Jean also declined, so Connie undertook the task. Merle and Jean agreed to organise morning tea. The group first met in *McDonald House* in the *Devonshire Place Mission* establishment; numbering initially about twelve members but quickly reaching about thirty. We then required a larger room and moved to the hall in the *Friendship Centre*. After organising the meetings for a few years, Connie passed the task to Pat Ballard.

My most outstanding memory of the early days of *Community Affairs* was the arrival of the speaker from the Fire Service - complete with Fire Appliance and full crew.

**Vic Chick**

## ***And some statistics....***

### **AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR NEW ZEALANDERS**

Since the beginning of civilization, senior citizens have played an essential role in society. Historically, they have represented wisdom, earned through a lifetime filled with experience. While promotional experts are aware that senior stereotypes are changing, senior citizens continue to serve as experts in their field, as mentors and as invaluable sources of skills and

knowledge. With the average life expectancy for New Zealanders being **82.65 years** in 2022, a 0.18% increase from 2021, the country now has more senior citizens than ever before. Many are without the resources and connections they need to remain happy and healthy, and stigmas surrounding the elderly prevent many from taking action to help. While there are many challenges in supporting an aging population, it's essential to take time to celebrate the wisdom and unique perspectives our elderly population offers.



**Age is a question of mind over matter.  
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!**

### Newsletters

Our Editor is **Franki James** and her contact details are e-mail: [frankijbj@gmail.com](mailto:frankijbj@gmail.com) or phone: **843 5926**. Please let Franki know if you have any items to include in the newsletter. **Peter Green** is our Technical Co-ordinator and not only very kindly actually produces the newsletter in the correct format and sends it out to most members by e-mail, but he is also responsible for keeping the U3A Taradale Website up to date.

<b>U3a Committee 2022</b>			
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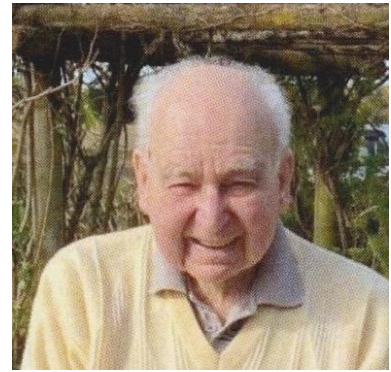


## OBITUARY: PETER NEWBY

It is with great regret that we note the passing, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, of our first Life Member, Peter Newby, at the age of 97. Peter qualified in engineering and spent his working life with the Ministry of Works, finishing his career as District Commissioner of Works, Napier.

He joined the U3A with his wife, Ngaire, belonging to the Community Affairs group, Controversial Issues and Astronomy and, for a period, was Coordinator of the No.3 Lunch Group. He also served as Secretary for several years.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Ngaire.



Vic Chick.

## A NEW BOOK...

***'Wounded World and Broken Church', published by our president, Keith Rowe***

**The text below comes from the back cover of the book which will be available from Wardini Books in Napier from mid-December.**

*'Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable.'*

(2 Timothy 4:2.)

The times may not seem favourable for the church or its preaching but Keith Rowe is in no doubt that the Way pioneered by Jesus represents values and wisdom greatly needed in our troubled times.

***Wounded World and Broken Church*** is a collection of sermons and reflections by someone who is deeply sensitive to the troubled times in which we live and who seeks to bridge the gap between thoughtful scholarship and lived life.

We cannot deny the troubles facing churches that once offered hope and direction to society: decline in numbers, the demise of Christendom, the indifference of secular society, captivity to economic and social forces that deny the very Gospel that gave it birth. The church is broken, in need of deep healing.

This selection of contemporary reflections offers a little light in what is a difficult time for our fragile planet and a human community shaped by violence, greed and social dislocation. Climate change and environmental destruction, the continuing and growing gap between rich and poor, fresh awareness of human fragility revealed during covid pandemic times, the perils and promise of technological change, all cry out for fresh thinking and bold and imaginative action. These and other challenges are the setting for our believing, praying and living.

*Wounded World and Broken Church* offers encouragement to those who have become disenchanted with versions of Christian believing and living that are no longer credible and to congregational leaders trapped into churchly roles they feel require them to give assent to ancient convictions they no longer agree with.

No one knows what the future form of the church will be. Keith Rowe asserts that though the form 'church' takes in the future is unclear humanity needs groups of people who recall, explore, live within and share the words and deeds of Jesus – people who live in the wilderness in the spirit of Jesus, trusting that within the love of God, their efforts, their prayers, their struggle contribute to the healing of the church and the world.

This is the challenge to us who preach, believe, live in these unfavourable times.



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**Rev. Dr Keith Rowe** has degrees in history and in theology, including a doctorate in theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was ordained by the Methodist Church in New Zealand and served for thirty years as Parish Minister, Theological College Lecturer and Principal. He transferred to the Uniting Church in Australia, served in two Sydney parishes and was chair of the Assembly Doctrine Commission. Kathleen and Keith returned to New Zealand upon retirement and live in Napier, Hawkes Bay.



WOUNDED WORLD AND BROKEN CHURCH SERMONS TOWARDS HEALING KEITH ROWE



SERMONS  
TOWARD HEALING

# WOUNDED WORLD AND BROKEN CHURCH

KEITH ROWE